

RESPIRATOR PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide guidelines for respiratory use when respiratory hazards exist. The Company will provide the Employee respirators for use in hazardous respiratory environments (as determined by the Site Safety Officer) and whenever the Employee requests such protection.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Company Safety Director is responsible for all facets of this program and has authority to make necessary decisions to ensure success of this program. The Safety Director and Site Safety Officer have the authority to halt any operation where there is a danger of personal injury.

The Employee is responsible for monitoring, maintaining, cleaning, and minor fit adjustments for the respiratory equipment provided to him.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- 1.) This program shall be in compliance with VOSHA/OSHA regulations Subpart E- Personal Protective Equipment, 29 CFR Part 1926.103 and 1910.134- Respiratory Protection. 2.) Respirators shall be selected (by the Safety Director or Site Safety Officer) based upon the hazards to which the worker is potentially exposed. In addition, outside consultation, manufacturers assistance, and other recognized authorities will be consulted if there is any doubt regarding proper selection and use. Respirators shall be selected from among those jointly approved by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOSH).

- 3.) The Employee shall be instructed and trained in the proper use of respirators and their limitations. Both supervisors and workers shall be so instructed. Training shall provide the Employees an opportunity to handle the respirator, have it fitted properly, test its faceplate-to-face seal, wear it in normal air for a familiarity period, and finally to wear it in a test atmosphere. Every respirator wearer shall receive fitting instructions, including demonstrations and practice on how the respirator should be worn, how to adjust it, and how to determine proper fit.

- 4.) Respirators shall not be worn when conditions prevent a good face seal. Such conditions may be a growth of a beard, sideburns, skull cap that projects under the face piece, or temple pieces on eyeglasses. To assure proper protection, the fit shall be checked by the Employee each time their individual respirator is put to use, in accordance

with the manufacturer's instructions.

- 5.) Respirators are provided to individual workers for their exclusive use.
- 6.) Respirators shall be regularly cleaned and disinfected after each use, or more frequently if necessary.
- 7.) Respirators shall be stored in a clean and sanitary location.
- 8.) Respirators used routinely shall be inspected during cleaning. Worn or deteriorated parts shall be replaced. Respirators for emergency use such as self-contained devices shall be thoroughly inspected at least once a month and after each use.
- 9.) Appropriate monitoring of work area conditions and degree of employee exposure or stress shall be determined by the Site Safety Officer.
- 10.) The Safety Director shall make inspections of the areas where respirators are being used to ensure compliance.
- 11.) Employees shall not be assigned to tasks requiring use of respirators unless it has been determined that they are physically able to perform the work and use the equipment. The Company medical provider shall determine what health and physical conditions are pertinent. The respirator user's medical status should be reviewed periodically (for instance, annually).